

**Profile of the
Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics Program
University of Wisconsin–Green Bay
2021 Regents Teaching Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- The Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics program is an emphasis within the Human Biology major at UW-Green Bay. Three faculty members contribute to the teaching of this program – Dr. Deb Pearson, Ms. Sara Wagner, and Dr. Leanne Zhu – with Ms. Heather Masters serving as the Dietetic Internship Director. The instructors teach first-year seminars, general education courses, and courses for the nutrition science emphasis.
- The program’s mission is to provide high-quality interdisciplinary courses and learning opportunities that focus on biological, physiological, and behavioral aspects of humans with an emphasis on the role that food and nutrition have in maintaining and improving health. The program integrates evidence-based scientific principles and critical thinking skills needed to prepare students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist, graduate studies, and employment in food and nutrition-related fields.
- The program currently enrolls 73 students (88% female; 12% male). A large percentage are transfer and second-degree students with junior and senior standing.
- The program has seamlessly incorporated technology into its teaching and was selected for UW-Green Bay’s competitive Online/Hybrid Program Development Grant for \$20,000 in 2019, allowing its faculty to leverage best practices for online and hybrid instruction for its undergraduate students, as well as its future graduate program.
- The program uses a state-of-the-art food lab in UW-Green Bay’s STEM Innovation Center to continue community outreach, even during the pandemic, by offering a “virtual food camp” to 4-H/Extension students, as well as teaching virtual labs to socially distanced students.
- As an accredited program, assessment is at the forefront. Program goals and outcomes clearly lay out the importance of graduates’ skills using straightforward metrics of success. While the stated outcome is that 50% of students will be employed in food, nutrition, and dietetic-related professions within six months of graduation, the program boasts an 85% placement rate and a 98.3% pass rate on the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist exam.
- Program takes a culturally responsive approach to infuse inclusive excellence into the curriculum. The program regularly contributes to the General Education curriculum in the teaching of “Ethnic Influences on Nutrition,” which focuses on how race and ethnicity influence food habits, nutrition, and health status.
- Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics is launching a Master of Science in Nutrition and Integrative Health in fall 2021.

In the words of graduates:

- “My appreciation for the innovation of this program only grows over time. Truly, the experiences provided in this program are uniquely designed to prepare students for any aspect of becoming a nutrition professional.”
- “Almost 10 years ago, I graduated from UW-Green Bay’s Nutrition Science/Dietetics program. Like most life experiences, I did not realize how fortunate I was to receive guidance, education, and support from such a compassionate and dedicated faculty. My coursework at UWGB laid the foundation for my entire career....”

In the words of a colleague:

- “This small, but mighty program has been recognized across the campus, state, and country for their teaching efforts....I am confident their excellence will further unfold as they take on the challenge of a graduate program to meet our students’ and region’s needs.”
—*Kate Burns, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay*